

This includes the most recent reauthorization in 2013, which passed the Senate by a strong bipartisan vote of 78 to 22.

It is an honor to introduce this reauthorization and expansion of protections for survivors.

This bill is the result of a truly bipartisan effort. I would like to thank Senator ERNST, Senator DURBIN, and Senator MURKOWSKI for working with me to prepare this important piece of legislation.

We have also had help from a number of our Senate colleagues who have made important contributions to this effort. I am proud that this bill has received strong bipartisan support in the Senate.

I would also like to thank the many advocates who have lent their thoughts and support to this effort. This bill was written in close consultation with the people who are on the frontlines helping survivors of domestic violence every day. It is not a Democratic bill or a Republican bill—it is a bill for survivors.

Together, we drafted a bill that preserves the good work of the last Violence Against Women Act reauthorization and strengthens existing programs.

For nearly 30 years, the Violence Against Women Act has played a vital role in the Federal response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. I hope that this bill will be an effective tool to build upon those efforts.

Despite the progress made over the last three decades, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse are still painful realities for far too many Americans. More than one in three women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Nationwide, an average of three women are killed each day by a current or former intimate partner.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in a single day in 2020, 76,525 domestic violence survivors received the resources they needed thanks to programs funded and supported by the Violence Against Women Act.

It is clear that the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act are necessary, and they need to be continually updated to meet the needs of survivors. The bipartisan bill that we are introducing today reauthorizes these important programs and provides the necessary updates to strengthen them.

This bill enhances and expands services for survivors of domestic violence, including survivors in rural communities, LGBT survivors, survivors with disabilities, and survivors who experience abuse later in life.

This bill reauthorizes and strengthens the criminal justice response to domestic violence, including by improving the Justice Department's STOP grant program; expanding support provided to survivors in the legal system;

and strengthening the ability of Tribal courts to address instances of domestic violence on Tribal lands.

This bill also invests in prevention education efforts, improves the healthcare system's response to sexual violence across the country, and establishes a pilot program on restorative practices that focuses on preventing or addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through community based, victim-initiated efforts to seek accountability.

I am pleased that we have strong bipartisan support for this bill, but our work is not done. The survivors—who this bill is for—need the Senate to not only introduce this bill but to pass it. The prevention of domestic violence and the support for survivors of these heinous crimes is not a partisan issue.

This is not a perfect bill. I regret that certain provisions were not able to be included in this bill, most notably the closure of the “boyfriend loophole” to ensure that individuals convicted of domestic abuse against a dating partner could not purchase firearms. Individuals convicted of domestic violence against a spouse are already prevented from purchasing a firearm, and it is deeply disappointing that there is not sufficient bipartisan support for this commonsense provision to close this loophole. I would have liked to include those additional provisions, as would many of my Senate colleagues. But though it is not perfect, it is a strong bill.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this bill through the Senate and get it signed into law as soon as possible.

The time to act is now. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation, and I hope that it will come to the floor for a vote quickly.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 508—HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 508

Whereas, on February 14, 2018, a mass shooting that claimed the lives of 17 teachers and students took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for the individuals who were affected by this tragedy;

Whereas the Parkland community has shown strength, compassion, and unity in the past 4 years; and

Whereas February 14, 2022, marks 4 years since the horrific attack: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, and offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the survivors of the attack and pledges continued support for their recovery;

(3) recognizes the strength and resilience of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community; and

(4) expresses gratitude to the emergency medical and health care professionals of the Parkland community for their efforts in responding to the attack and caring for the victims and survivors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 509—HONORING THOMAS EDWARD PATRICK BRADY, JR., THE 7-TIME SUPER BOWL CHAMPION WHO PLAYED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS FOR 20 INCREDIBLE SEASONS, AND BRIEFLY THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS FOR 2 SEASONS, FOR A COMBINED 22 SEASONS IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 509

Whereas Tom Brady, commonly known as “TB12” or “the GOAT”, was born in San Mateo, California, on August 3, 1977;

Whereas, after graduating from Junipero Serra High School, Tom Brady matriculated at the University of Michigan, where he led the Wolverines football team to wins in the Citrus and Orange Bowls;

Whereas Tom Brady was drafted in the sixth round of the 2000 National Football League (referred to in this preamble as the “NFL”) Draft with the 199th pick by the New England Patriots, a selection that many football analysts now regard as the best draft pick of all time;

Whereas Tom Brady was named the starting quarterback of the New England Patriots during the 2001 season and subsequently never had a losing season as a starting quarterback during his time in the NFL;

Whereas Tom Brady was instrumental in creating iconic moments in New England sports history, including—

(1) on January 19, 2002, leading the Patriots to a come-from-behind win in the American Football Conference Divisional playoffs against the Oakland Raiders during a blizzard in the last game ever played at Foxboro Stadium;

(2) on February 2, 2002, leading the New England Patriots to the franchise's first Super Bowl victory against the heavily favored St. Louis Rams;

(3) during the 2007 season, leading the New England Patriots with a record setting passing touchdown performance to a perfect 16-0 regular season; and

(4) on February 5, 2017, overcoming a 28-3 deficit against the Atlanta Falcons to win Super Bowl LI;

Whereas Tom Brady has won 7 Super Bowls, including 6 with the New England Patriots, and was a key member during the franchise's dynasty era, which spanned 2 decades;

Whereas Tom Brady has been—